



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

FUTURE OF THE KANSAS ACADEMY LIBRARY AND BOOK COLLECTIONS IN THE STATEHOUSE.

By J. T. LOVEWELL, Topeka.

THERE are in our statehouse collections of books which, if united under one administration, would give us by far the largest library in Kansas.

First, we have the state library, which is directly under the management of the justices of the supreme court, who appoint the librarian and make rules for the acquisition, care and use of books, in accordance with the statutes enacted from time to time. Naturally, it was at first a law library, and this feature must ever continue its foremost purpose. The exchanges among the states of court reports and legislative proceedings bring a constantly increasing influx of books which are indispensable to lawyers, and no other law libraries can claim to equal our state libraries in the extent and richness of this class of books.

But our state library is not limited to legal treatises. Annual appropriations are made for the purchase of books of any kind, and exchanges are also made of our state publications for books of every character published by other states or institutions. It is a repository to which are sent all publications of the government at Washington, many departments of which are prolific of books. The statutes provide for all expenses of this library, and its printing and binding are done at the state printing plant, on requisition of the librarian. The Stormont medical library is a distinct department of the state library, under charge of the state librarian, who acts with a committee of the State Medical Society in making rules and purchasing books from the income of the Stormont fund of \$5000.

The traveling library is under charge of another commission, three of whom are appointed by the justices, and the fourth is the president of the Social Federation of Clubs. This organization was started by the Kansas Federation of Women's Clubs, and designed to disseminate the advantages of books throughout the state where there are no large libraries, and is proving very acceptable to the general public. The legislature of 1909 made provision for still another branch of the state library, to be known as "the legislative reference library," but it is not a distinct commission, and, so far as at present developed, is in the hands of an assistant, who

uses all the resources of the library and makes clippings bearing upon all important questions that may be before the public; and here the legislators may find help in preparing bills, etc.

The law provides for assistant librarians and clerical help in each of the departments, and appropriations are made for office expenses, postage, and \$200 each year for buying books.

The Historical Society, established primarily for the purpose of collecting and preserving historical records, especially of Kansas, is made a trustee of the state for the historical objects and books that may come into its possession. It also is a repository to which are sent all government publications at Washington, and probably has the most complete sets of these of any of our statehouse collections. It maintains a system of exchanges, not only by means of its own bulky biennial volume of Collections, but the state gives it for exchange purposes sixty bound copies of each of the several publications of the state and of its societies and institutions, except the supreme court reports. This provision is made with the express object of facilitating exchanges, and the result has been that in number of volumes of books and pamphlets it far outranks the other combined collections in the statehouse. State, county or other officials may turn over to the Historical Society, for preservation, any books, manuscripts or newspaper files, which are to be catalogued or kept by the society as a part of the public records. On application, certified copies may be made of these by the secretary.

Another unique feature of this collection is its files of newspapers. The statutes make no direct reference to these, but the fact that both its secretaries have been newspaper men has enabled the society to appeal successfully to newspaper publishers to turn over copies of their papers to the society, until its collection of bound files of newspapers exceeds that of any other western state. While mainly interested in Kansas papers, it has files of some prominent papers of the great cities, like St. Louis, Chicago and New York. It takes a great amount of space to care for such a collection, and requires a clerical force of nearly a dozen persons to assist the secretary in all parts of his work. In the great flood of books and curios that are ever drifting into this society there is a good percentage of "junk" which must eventually be cleared out, for there is a limit to the use of a public museum as a haven for worn-out and antique furniture and discarded books.

Next to these in extent and importance is our own collection of books. These have been acquired by exchanges and donations, and a few have been purchased with funds of the Academy. The

collection of a library was not a prominent object in the thought of its founders. As by incorporation it was regarded as a department of the State Board of Agriculture, so in its earlier years its Transactions were published as appendices to the biennial report of that board. After a few years it became a matter of mutual convenience to have the Transactions published in separate volumes, and so it has continued to the twenty-third volume, which is now in the hands of the printer. These volumes are regarded as valuable contributions to scientific inquiry, and contain the best papers of our scientific men. They have been received as acceptable exchanges by large numbers of scientific journals and publications, both domestic and foreign, and such exchanges have been carried on till now the Academy has a library of more than 6000 volumes. Many of these are in foreign languages, and come from every country where scientific contributions are published. The earlier editions of the first seven volumes having been exhausted, the Academy, using the funds which had accumulated from membership dues, had 500 copies of these volumes reprinted, so that now fifty or more complete sets of the Transactions can be sold or used in exchanges. This will be a valuable asset in the future development of the library. Not much has been done in cataloguing this library beyond a card index which shows the titles of volumes on hand and the sources from which they come. The Academy has received from the various government departments at Washington their scientific publications, and many of the sets are near enough complete to be of great value.

The removal of the library and collections of the Academy from the basement to the fourth floor of the statehouse, and the subsequent clearing of a room where our books were stored, have been great obstacles to getting the library into a usable condition, and now there is little encouragement to make permanent arrangements, when in a year or two there will be another removal to the new Memorial building.

Most of the exchanges coming in pamphlet form, it has been a great advantage to the Academy to have the state printer do the binding, as it does for the state library and for the Historical Society. Each of these organizations working separately and independently in the matter of exchanges naturally brings to the statehouse collections many duplicate and triplicate copies of the same scientific publications. This is especially true of the publications received from Washington. When these are bound by the state there is also considerable expense which might be saved, since

one book in a combined library would serve the purpose of three in separate collections. The greatest benefit, however, of a consolidated library is in the complete cataloguing which would then be possible. This is a task of considerable magnitude, and could hardly be attempted with the present resources of the Academy. The cataloguers in the state library, besides professional training, have now had considerable practical experience and could work with much advantage on the combined collections.

The whole matter of the consolidation of libraries is doubtless in the province of the legislature, and should be taken up in a broad and generous spirit, and with the purpose to make a great state library, as useful as possible to the people of the state. It is natural that the Academy and the Historical Society would not consent to lose the identity of their libraries in this consolidation. We have considerable pride in our book collection and have invested in it quite an amount of the Academy's funds. It is a matter that should be thoroughly discussed and referred to a committee.

In our collection of scientific books in foreign languages, we surpass both the state and historical libraries. While this feature does not appeal to large numbers of those who consult our libraries, yet there are occasions when such books are of the highest value, and they are an important adjunct to our state library. In many instances sets of this class of books may be made more complete by exchanges of our Transactions, to which reference has been made, and the international book exchange, through the Smithsonian, makes this possible at small expense.

In presenting the facts set forth in this paper it has been the purpose to call attention of members of the Academy to the possibilities of improvement in our library so as to make it one of our most important agencies in scientific progress. In the consolidation suggested above, it seems fitting that a strictly scientific department be created in our state library, and placed under control of the Academy, under similar conditions to that of the Stormont library in its connection with the State Medical Society. This would require another assistant librarian, and all the details could be arranged by mutual conference of the parties interested. The time to take this up is at hand when we are to move into the new Memorial building.